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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The land redistribution in 1945 and 1946 was generally well received. At that time land held in excess of 300 decares in the Dobrudzha and 200 decares elsewhere, was expropriated.

The land expropriated was given to persons who had little or no land; for example, those with 20 decares received an additional 20 decares, and those without any land received 40 decares. Land belonging to the municipality was distributed to villagers who had no land, a move which proved very popular in the village.

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2. the TKZS (Trudovo Kooperativno Zemedelsko Stopanstvo; Cooperative Farm) in late 1944 in Zagortsi village, Nova Zagora Okoliya, a TKZS was first organized in that okoliya. In the early days, the Communist propaganda in favor of the TKZS stated that all work on the future TKZS would be done by machinery and that members would work only two hours a day. In spite of these promises the people refused to join, as membership in those days was optional.
3. At first only a few Communists, bound by Party orders, joined the TKZS. Later pressure was applied on others to join. In 1950 some of the richest farmers were forced to sign up for the TKZS, after being threatened and beaten by Communist thugs. Within five days after these rich men had joined, the rest of the villagers entered the TKZS.
4. A family applying for membership is first required to submit an application which gives details concerning the land owned, the machinery and implements owned, and the livestock owned. The application is examined by the executive committee of

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the TKZS. The TKZS makes its recommendation to a general meeting of the cooperative as to whether or not the application should be accepted; the recommendation of the executive committee is always adopted by the general meeting.

5. No certificate is issued to new members on joining the TKZS, but if a document showing place of employment is required for an official purpose, e.g., for obtaining an identity document, the TKZS will issue the necessary certificate.
6. When the new member enters the TKZS, his farm machinery, implements, and live-stock, as well as his land, are transferred to the cooperative. A commission of the TKZS estimates the value of the new member's machinery, implements, and live-stock, the total value of which must be at least 2,000 leva (80 leva by new currency) for each decare of land. The new member is told that the TKZS will repay this amount to him in installments, the first payment to be made seven years after the date of entrance. If the value of his machinery, implements, and live-stock is estimated to be less than 2,000 leva (80 new leva) per decare of land, the new member is required to pay the TKZS the difference in annual instalments commencing soon after he is admitted.
7. The value of the new member's land is not estimated; however, members are paid rent for their land, calculated in the following manner:
 - a. At the end of the production year, the share of the harvest required by the State is delivered;
 - b. Of the remaining harvest, 10 percent is allocated to the TKZS to meet its operating expenses; and
 - c. The remaining harvest is allocated at a general meeting of the TKZS, with perhaps a maximum of 40 percent of the remainder allocated to the members in proportion to the amount of land they brought into the TKZS (a form of rent) and a minimum of 60 percent allocated to the members according to their work (the work is calculated on the basis of a "labor day" scale).

For example, [] in 1952, the "rent" of a decare of land was equivalent to 1.5 "labor days," but in 1953 the "rent" was reduced to the equivalent of one "labor day" per decare. Many members believe that hereafter no "rent" will be paid at all.

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8. The members of the TKZS enjoy many advantages over non-members. For example, they are not considered "unreliable" elements, as are the private farmers. They have a better chance of finding work for themselves or for other members of their family, and find it easier to have their children admitted to the schools.
9. The chief complaint of the TKZS members is lack of money. They receive payment in kind and only a small amount in cash for their work. For example, in 1952 at informant's TKZS, 1.2 leva (new currency) were paid for each "labor day." A normal family with 400 "labor days" to its credit for the year would therefore have an annual cash income of only 500 leva, an amount insufficient for even the most basic needs.
10. The executive committee of the TKZS calls meetings of the members, at which the day-to-day affairs of the cooperative are discussed. Such meetings were held [] at least twice a month. The general meeting was held annually for the purpose of reporting the previous year's activities and presenting the plan for the coming year.

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11. Usually the most prominent political figures in the village are elected to the executive committee of the TKZS. Such elections are held every three years. Voting is not by secret ballot.
12. [] the candidates proposed by the Communist Party were not elected. However, the Party succeeded in having these candidates named as "candidate-members" of the executive committee, and then by applying pressure in secret on those elected, forced them to resign, whereupon the so-called "candidate-members" took over. 50X1-HUM
13. According to the rules of the TKZS, a member who withdraws may receive his land back again. However, he can only get back his implements and livestock three years after his withdrawal. [] no cases when such a withdrawal was made and land was actually returned. 50X1-HUM
14. The executive committee [] consisted of a president, vice-president, secretary, and four members. The political reliability of the members of the executive committee are particularly closely checked by the Communist Party and State Security representatives, who also exercise a somewhat less stringent control over who is admitted to the TKZS as an ordinary member. 50X1-HUM
15. The Communist Party organization in informant's TKZS had 22 members.
16. The work at [] TKZS was supervised by 10 "brigadiers," chosen at a general meeting of the cooperative. A "brigadier" does not work himself, but supervises the work of each of several groups (zvenovod) under him. Each of these groups is composed of three or four families, of which one person, who works alongside the others, is chosen the leader. No new farming practices were introduced. 50X1-HUM
17. The agricultural directorate at the Okoliya People's Council level supervises the TKZS units in the okoliya. Representatives of this directorate frequently visited informant's TKZS, but no foreign experts were ever seen.
18. The average day on the TKZS for both men and women is spent working in the fields, but children up to 10 years of age do not work. Usually those working in the fields take their lunches with them. The usual lunch is bread and onion or garlic, as there is not likely to be anything else available. The work is not particularly hard, because frequent rests are taken. The member's attitude toward work for the TKZS is such that he does not work as diligently as he would if he were working for himself. Therefore, members are often late arriving in the fields and, once there, watch the clock like office workers and pay little attention to their work.
19. Production [] was less than that of the same land before the TKZS was formed. [] 50X1-HUM
 - a. In 1950, before the formation of the TKZS, the villagers delivered 1,500 tons of various crops to the State and still had ample quantities on hand for their own use; and
 - b. In 1952, after the TKZS was formed, the farm delivered only 500 tons of the same crops and yet the members were left in hunger the following year.

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20. The MTS (Mashino Traktorno Stantsiya; Machine Tractor Station), using its own personnel and equipment, does the plowing, sowing, and threshing for the TKZS. The MTS is paid for its services in kind, according to an agreement drawn in advance between the MTS and the TKZS.
21. Those who have not yet joined a TKZS find life very difficult as they are forced to pay high taxes and to sell a large proportion of their crops to the State for a low price. 50X1-HUM
22. [redacted] no [redacted] instances of sabotage in the TKZS, outside of the laziness and carelessness of the members [redacted]
23. The chief fear in the minds of the officials of the TKZS is that the production plan will not be fulfilled and that they will be criticized by their superiors at the okoliya level. The TKZS officials always talk in an optimistic vein in their speeches at meetings and attempt to gain the support of the members by promises of a rosy future. The members are generally indifferent to the appeals of the officials.
24. The loss of a record book would create panic among the administrative staff members of the TKZS. 50X1-HUM
25. Members, for the most part, are paid in kind. However, the TKZS sells a part of its share of the harvest for cash, and therefore, sometimes has cash on hand. Members are entitled to borrow from this fund to meet emergency expenses. However, in practice the TKZS usually has no cash available. For example, [redacted] the wife of one of the "brigadiers" who was about to have a child, was refused when she requested 50 leva to meet expenses of the birth and for clothing for the baby. 50X1-HUM
26. The TKZS stores its produce at times in storerooms which are not under guard. Members may resort to theft of such produce when they are short of money.
27. The TKZS maintains no store or dining room.
28. The members of [redacted] TKZS were not in particularly good health, as many suffered from tuberculosis and other diseases. There was a nurse stationed at the TKZS for treating minor injuries and illnesses. 50X1-HUM
29. The local school was not tied in with the TKZS, although occasionally, spurred on by the Village People's Council, the students would assist in the field work (particularly at harvest time). 50X1-HUM
30. [redacted] never [redacted] even one member of the TKZS express his satisfaction with the TKZS system. A few of the young people liked to work in groups, but generally speaking, the method of work was unpopular. 50X1-HUM
31. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
32. The members do not celebrate religious holidays as before, because the working schedule interferes, and because they usually have no money to buy the things needed for such celebrations.

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33. As a rule, if a member is ill and does not go to work no questions are asked. However, if malingering is proved, the member may be fined the equivalent of two or three "labor days."
34. The members are generally free to visit friends or relatives in other villages. Before making such a trip, permission must be requested from the "brigadier." Usually he grants the permission himself without informing the TKZS administration. However, if he complies with a strict interpretation of the regulations he must refer such a request to the TKZS administration and considerable time may elapse before it takes any action. The members could travel to Sofia quite freely, following the above procedure.
35. The members are obliged to subscribe to at least one newspaper. Motion pictures are shown twice a month at the reading room (chitalishte), usually after the TKZS meeting. This boosts attendance at such meetings, the people waiting patiently through them to see the film.
36. Although the livestock is the property of the TKZS alone, the members as a rule still go to the barns and care for the animals they owned formerly and protect them from ill treatment. The members all hope to get the animals back some day.
37. Every member remembers the former boundaries of the fields which he turned over to the TKZS. Many of them have secretly made sketches of their land holdings and have even dug deep holes in which they have buried large stones to mark the corners of their former property. They all expect to get their land back again.
38. The members complain among themselves about their present life and also talk to the private farmers about their hopes for the collapse of the TKZS system.
39. The TKZS has changed the life of the members so that they are now like factory workers in many respects. Also the TKZS system has meant the end of the village and okoliya fairs and markets which held an important place in the life of the peasants in the days before the TKZS.

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